

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AGENDA ITEM

Item No. 8.B.1

SUBJECT: Annual Update on Wisconsin Wolf Management Plan

FOR: AUGUST 2008 **BOARD MEETING**

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Adrian Wydeven and Professor Tim Van Deelen

SUMMARY:

The Natural Resources Board approved the Wisconsin Wolf Management Plan in 1999 and the Wolf Management Plan Update in 2006. Adrian Wydeven, Mammal Ecologist, will update the Board on the annual review of the plan including the status of the wolf population including the results of the 2007-08 winter survey, depredation management, and status of lawsuit against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service action to delist the wolf in a population segment that includes Wisconsin. He will also address the Conservation Congress's request to the Board to include "Appendix J" to the Wisconsin Wolf Management plan. Adrian will also present a plan for a review and revision of the Wisconsin Wolf Management Plan.

Professor Tim Van Deelen, University of Wisconsin--Madison, will present a model of the wolf population including estimation of carrying capacity and potential sustained yields.


RECOMMENDATION: This item is informational. No action needed.

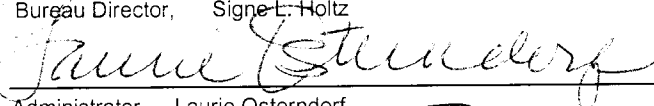
LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:

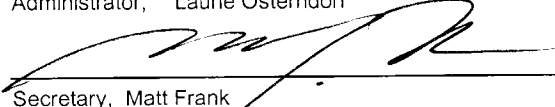
No ☒ Fiscal Estimate Required
No ☒ Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement Required
No ☐ Background Memo

Yes ☐ Attached
Yes ☐ Attached
Yes ☒ Attached

APPROVED:



Bureau Director, Signe L. Holtz


Administrator, Laurie Osterndorf


Secretary, Matt Frank

7/7/08

Date
7/7/08


Date
7/9/08

Date

cc: Laurie J. Ross - AD/5
Signe Holtz-ER/6
Rebecca Schroeder-ER/6
Adrian Wydeven- Park Falls

DATE: July 7, 2008

TO: Natural Resources Board

FROM: Matthew Frank 

SUBJECT: Update on Wisconsin Wolf Management

The Natural Resources Board approved the Wisconsin Wolf Management Plan in 1999 and the plan update in 2006 and asked for an informational item on wolf management to be presented annually.

The following topics will be presented at the August 2008 meeting.

Wolf Population Status. Results of the 2007-08 winter survey of the Wisconsin wolf population will be presented, showing a count of 537-565 for 2008, similar to level in 2007, with the 2008 population about 170 wolves above goal.

Wolf Depredation Management. Numbers of livestock and dogs depredated by wolves in the last year will be presented along with the number of depredating wolves trapped and killed.

Federal Lawsuit Update. On March 12, 2007 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service delisted the wolf in a population segment that includes Wisconsin. The Humane Society of the United States, Help Our Wolves Live, and the Animal Protection Institute have filed a suit in the U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., challenging this action. Information on the status of the federal lawsuit against the delisting of gray wolves in the Upper Midwest will be presented.

Conservation Congress Request of the NRB. The Conservation Congress requested the NRB to add "Appendix J" to the Wisconsin Wolf Management Plan. DNR will work with Conservation Congress wolf committee and other stakeholders to develop new framework for potential wolf harvest.

Wolf Plan Review. The original 1999 Wisconsin Wolf Management Plan called for a formal review of the plan every 5 years. A new review will be due in 2009, and in June 2009 DNR will present new draft goals & objectives to NRB along with framework for potential wolf harvest.

Modeling the Wisconsin Wolf Population. Professor Tim Van Deelen has been developing a statistical model for projecting growth of the Wisconsin wolf population. He will present the results of his assessment of a sustained yield model which will suggest that the equilibrium population for the state may be higher than previously suggested, and that a higher more stable management goal may be desirable.